

Application No. 09/926,766
Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 dated September 3, 2004
Response to the Office Action of June 3, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 7 and 8 remain pending in the present application. The rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Klein** (USP 6,445,380), **Bertram et al.** (USP 5,784,060), and **Louis** (USP 5,503,484).

The Office Action relied on **Klein** for disclosing a Space and Enter buttons in the central bottom portion of the keyboard. Nevertheless, the Office Action stated that "**Klein's** invention however does not include the exact positioning of the delete and backspace buttons." For this deficiency in the primary reference to **Klein**, the Office Action makes the further reference to **Bertram** for disclosing the Backspace and Delete buttons in a location other than the conventional keyboard layout. The Office Action makes further reference to **Louis** for disclosing the Delete button at the uppermost far right key position. The Office Action also alleged that the skilled artisan, in reviewing these cited references, would recognize using different keyboard layouts.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Klein**, **Bertram**, **Louis**, and further in view of **Weeks** (USP 5,880,685). The further reference to **Weeks** was made for disclosing a left Enter key and a right Space button in the lowermost central position of the keyboard.

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Although these references reflect the ability to relocate different keys in different positions, in contrast to the conventional keyboard layout, none of the references disclose the specific key arrangement recited in the present claimed invention. More importantly, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the specific key arrangement "being a normal state of said keyboard without any key reassignment."

The Office Action acknowledged that "Bertram's reference violates the claimed limitation of restricting the invention to non-assignable keyboards." Nevertheless, the Office Action suggested modifying/combining the disclosures from the four different references to achieve the present claimed keyboard configuration. However, the suggested modification/combination clearly contradicts the express limitation in the present claimed invention requiring the normal state of the keyboard to have the specific key arrangement recited in claim 7, without any key reassignment. In order to modify Klein, as suggested in the Office Action, reassignment of keys would be necessary. Such key reassignment is directly contrary to the present claimed invention. None of the references, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the specific claimed key positions "being a normal state of said keyboard without any key reassignment." For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior.

In addition, claim 7 was amended to recite "a key layout corresponding to a 101/104 English keyboard or a 106/109 Japanese keyboard" that is adapted to include the specific key arrangement of the present invention. In other words, the claimed specific key arrangement is the normal state in a 101/104 English keyboard or a 106/109 Japanese keyboard (without any

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key reassignment). The cited prior art are directed to different types of keyboards or new concept types of keyboards that are not a 101/104 English keyboard or a 106/109 Japanese keyboard.

Klein (USP '380) is a new concept keyboard having grouped zones of family keys, for example, a character key zone, punctuation key zone, calculation key zone, numeric key zone, symbolic key zone, etc.

Weeks is also a new concept keyboard of mirror image symmetrical keyboard, which might be expensive because of fundamentally restructuring layout and key actions of a keyboard such as horizontally depressing action of ENTER/SPACE keys and duplication of various dual mode keys at both of the left and right sides.

Further, in **Weeks** the ENTER/SPACE keys are not centrally juxtaposed at the lowermost key array as of the present invention, but disposed at the left side and right side of the central trackball 15, respectively. In the present invention (in a 101/104 English keyboard or a 106/109 Japanese keyboard) the ENTER/SPACE keys are not separated from each other by another service or operational member, but centrally juxtaposed, and operated by normal perpendicular depression.

Luis is also a new concept keyboard in which character keys are arranged in two inclined groups making an angle each other.

Bertram is not an actual keyboard, but a "virtual keyboard" or "soft keyboard" deployed on a display. **Bertram** does not disclose a 101/104 English keyboard or a 106/109 Japanese keyboard adapted to have the present claimed key arrangement.

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None of the new concept keyboards of the cited prior art disclose the specific key arrangement in a 101/104 English keyboard or a 106/109 Japanese keyboard as recited in amended claim 7. Indeed, since the cited prior art are directed to new concept keyboards, they would require a much higher manufacturing cost than the 101/104 English keyboard or 106/109 Japanese keyboard adapted to have the present claimed specific positioning of "ENTER", "BS", and "DELETE" keys in a normal state. For at least these further reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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